

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of requesting operations and management data from a telephony switch at a computing device, said telephony switch and said computing in communication with a packet switched data network, said method comprising:

Sub B1

- a. establishing a connection between said computing device and said telephony switch over said packet switched data network;
- b. forming at least one packet comprising:
 - i. a network address identifying said telephony switch on said packet switched network;
 - ii. a network address identifying said computing device;
 - iii. a first message type identifier, identifying a message contained at least partially within said packet, as a data request message;
 - iv. a second message type identifier, identifying a type of operations and management data requested from said telephony switch;
- c. forwarding said packet from said computing device to said telephony switch using said data network.

Sub C1

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said packet further comprises, a security token allowing said switch to authenticate said computing device as a computing device authorized to request said operations and management data.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prior to b. exchanging login request and login reply

SAC
B2

~~messages between said computing device and said telephony switch, thereby establishing a message exchange session.~~

SAC
B2

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said message comprises an internet protocol compliant network.

SAC
B2

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said connection comprises a TCP/IP connection and said at least one packet is TCP/IP compliant.

SAC
B2

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said connection with said switch is established by way of an intermediate computing platform.

SAC
B2

7. A method of providing operations and management data from a telephony switch to a computing device, said telephony switch and said computing in communication with a packet switched data network, said method comprising:

SAC
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- a. in response to a request for operations and management data, forming at least one packet comprising:
 - i. a network address identifying said telephony switch on said packet switched network;
 - ii. a network address identifying said computing device;
 - iii. a first message type identifier, identifying said packet as at least partially containing a message formed in response to a request;
 - iv. a second message type identifier, identifying a type of operations and management data provided by in said packet;
- b. forwarding said packet from said telephony switch to

Sub B3
said computing device using said data network.

- Sub C1*

- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said packet further comprises an alphanumeric identifier of said telephony switch.
- 9. The method of claim 7, wherein said packet further comprises a security token allowing said computing device to authenticate said switch as a proper switch responding to a request.
- 10. The method of claim 7, further comprising, prior to a. exchanging login request and login reply messages between said computing device and said telephony switch, thereby establishing a message exchange session.
- 11. A method of exchanging operations and management data between a telephony switch and a computing device, said telephony switch and said computing in communication with a packet switched data network, said method comprising:
 - a. establishing at least first and second network connections between said computing device and said telephony switch over said packet switched data network;
 - b. exchanging data having a first priority over said first network connection;
 - c. concurrently exchanging data having a second priority over said second network connection.
- 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said packet switched network adheres to the internet protocol.

*Improper
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13. The method of claim 13, wherein said connections are TCP/IP connections, at first and second defined logical ports at said telephony switch.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising encapsulating operations and management messages having a pre-defined format in data packets to exchange said messages in b. and c.

15. A computer readable medium, containing computer readable instructions, that when loaded into a computing device comprising a network interface for interconnection with a packet switched data network, adapts said computing device to:

- a. establish a connection with a telephony switch over said packet switched data network ;
- b. form at least one packet comprising:
 - i. a network address identifying said telephony switch on said packet switched network;
 - ii. a network address identifying said computing device;
 - iii. a first message type identifier, identifying said packet as at least partially containing a data request message;
 - iv. a second message type identifier, identifying a type of operations and management data requested from said telephony switch;
- c. forward said at least one packet from said computing device to said telephony switch using said data network.

16. A computing device, comprising
a processor;

a data network interface, in communication with said processor;

processor readable memory, comprising processor readable instructions, adapting said device to:

- a. establish a connection with a telephony switch over a packet switched data network in communication with said network interface;
- b. form at least one packet comprising:
 - i. a network address identifying said telephony switch on said packet switched network;
 - ii. a network address identifying said computing device;
 - iii. a first message type identifier, identifying said packet as at least partially containing a data request message;
 - iv. a second message type identifier, identifying a type of operations and management data requested from said telephony switch;
- c. forward said at least one packet from said computing device to said telephony switch using said data network interface.

A 17. A digital telephony switch, comprising a processor;

a data network interface, in communication with said processor;

processor readable memory, comprising processor readable instructions, adapting said switch to:

a in response to a request for operations and management data, form at least one data packet comprising:

- i. a network address identifying said telephony switch on a packet switched network in communication with said network interface;
- ii. a network address identifying said computing device;
- iii. a first message type identifier, identifying said packet as at least partially containing a message formed in response to a request;
- iv. a second message type identifier, identifying a type of operations and management data provided by in said packet;

b. forward said packet from said telephony switch to said computing device using said data network interface.